

N.O.W. News

Official publication of the Numismatists Of Wisconsin



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Numismatists of Wisconsin is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin collectors of numismatic items and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage, educate, and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to N.O.W. News, this quarterly publication

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ON THE COVER: This issue cover features a Cassville Ferry Token, submitted by Randy and Sue Miller. 'Struck' in genuine plastic, these tokens serve as passage on the 'Pride of Cassville' as well as fill the token collector's need for novelty.



The Cassville Car Ferry connects two National Scenic Byways; the Wisconsin Great River Road and the Iowa Great River Road. The ferry served the early settlement as far back as 1833 and it continues today, making the same trip back and forth across the mighty Mississippi. It is the oldest operating ferry service in the state of Wisconsin.

From the Editor

Season's Greetings fellow NOW members! Trim the tree, deck the halls, sing with glee, climb the walls...etc..etc. As insane as the holidays can be, it's nice to be able to crawl into your designated numismatic private place in your home and just relax, work on your collection, or read about the hobby. Fortunately, you have another page-turning issue of NOW NEWS before you!

This issue is unprecedented in the fact that we have two articles written by persons outside of our membership. The reason for this is two-fold. First and foremost, they are excellent articles and fit nicely into NOW NEWS. Secondly, there simply weren't enough articles submitted to fill the issue. While we are certainly able to publish with less material, it can make for a skimpy issue, which of course, we want to avoid. As you have known, we like to have at least four feature articles in each issue, preferably written by NOW members, but that is not a requirement. The bottom line is this: Please send in your articles!!! Any size, any numismatic topic, we'll make it work.

The first feature in this issue is Part II of "Interview with Glenn Wright" by Jerry Binsfeld. Then coming to us from the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society and the Token and Medal Society, Herbert Miles tells the fascinating story of 'The Girl on the Mirror' – remember your last issue of NOW NEWS? Herbert's article sheds light on our cover model! Next is Mark Benvenuto's last installment of 'Inflating Away', this time it's the Belgian 5 franc. And finally, straight from The Numismatist, Gerome Walton investigates a scrip note from Wisconsin in "DeSoto Where?"

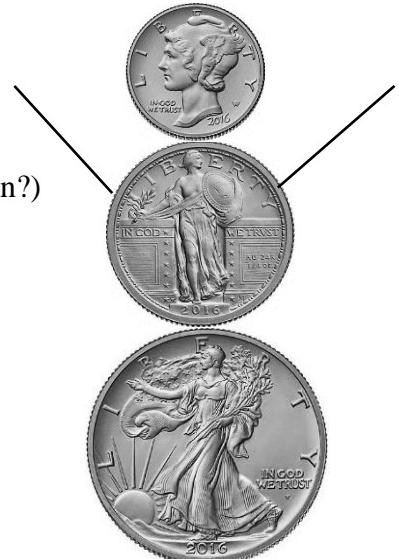
Regular departments are here as always, NOW News and Notes, Club News and Meetings, What's New at the U.S. Mint?, ANA News, BEP News, BOOKS!, the occasional Humorous Numis, and the ever popular Show Calendar. Please note our loyal advertisers and patronize them whenever you can, their support of NOW is so very important.

Enjoy the Season!

Jeff Reichenberger

(Do you want to build a snowman?)

Your Dues Notice is in this issue along with your remittance envelope. Please send them in with your Favorite Article ballot. Thank you!





NOW News and Notes

NOW Board of Governors

Your Board of Governors met on Sunday, October 2nd at Serb Hall in Milwaukee in conjunction with Milwaukee Numismatic Society's annual show. The meeting was called to order at 1pm by Vice President Fred Borgmann. In attendance were, Joel Edler, Darrell Luedtke, Jeff Reichenberger, Tom Casper, Bill Oldenburg, Lee Hartz, Cliff Mishler, and Ken Muelling.

Items discussed included:

NOW Show Calendar – 2017 Madison, March 5th at the Sheraton Hotel. 2018 Wausau, date to be determined. 2019 Green Bay (tentative).

Membership multi-year rates. We have adopted nominal rate incentives for two and three year memberships and renewals. The new rates are; \$10 one year (as usual), \$19 two years, \$27 three years. Please see this change on your Dues envelope enclosed in this issue and take advantage of the multi-year rates.

Current Membership Status – we have 257 active members, including 61 Life members.

Open Board Member Position. There is one open position for the Board of Governors for the 2017 – 2019 term. Please see the official notice below.

Our next Board meeting will be held at the March 5th NOW show in Madison – [See the Show ad on the following page!](#)



Call for Nominations – Governor Position

There is a Board Member position open for the 2017 – 2019 term. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who might be interested, please contact any current board member, or any friend of any board member, or any friend of a friend of a friend of any board member, so we can get that person or persons nominated!

DUES NOTICE

Please note that your ‘Dues are Due’ remittance envelope is in THIS issue. PLEASE send in your dues in a timely manner...like right now!! Your yearly dues keep your club running and viable. It helps finance the quarterly printing of your N.O.W. News, and it supports our efforts to educate and promote the hobby. So send in your dues ASAP! Just \$10 per year! (or NEW multi-year discounts!) Great bargains! **THANK YOU!!**

2016 WRITER’S AWARDS

It is time once again to vote for your favorite articles written by your fellow NOW members over the past year. Please take the time to show your appreciation for all of the wonderful articles by voting. The Voting ballot for the 2016 Writer’s Awards is in THIS issue! Please fill it out and send it in the enclosed remittance envelope. (Along with your dues :) THANK YOU!!

SHOW REPORTS *(Only two shows reported in. Please submit your show reports asap after your shows. Thank you!)*

October 2. MNS – Milwaukee

The 81st annual show was a great success. The bourse was sold out as usual, the weather was dreary and there was no Packer game, so the line of attendees was long before the 9am opening. Buying and selling was brisk from the 438 paid attendees. Thank you to all who attended and especially to the 26 MNS members who helped put the show together.



Busy bourse October 2 at the 81st Annual Milwaukee Numismatic Society show.

November 6. Madison Coin Club – Madison

The Madison Coin Club held its Second Annual Fall Show on Sunday, November 6 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. This fall has been beautiful, sunny and warm, and the Show date was no exception to this warming trend. A few collectors still on Central Daylight Savings Time showed up an hour early. Unfortunately, the gorgeous weather did influence attendance overall. Attendance was lighter than normal but steady from the 9:00 A.M opening until about 2:30 P.M. when the bourse floor cleared out quickly due to the impending Packer's game. I estimate about 250 collectors showed up. Normally, we get 300-350 attendees. However these collectors were spending money. I saw people leaving carrying bags and boxes of purchases. Many mentioned that they spent everything they brought with them and a few spent even more than they intended. We signed up nine new members. I handed out bourse applications for our 85th Anniversary Show - Over 25% of the available tables have already been reserved. Thanks to all those who helped with the show, and thank you to all who attended. Our 85th Anniversary Show is slated for Sunday, March 5. 2017. We will also be hosting the Numismatists of Wisconsin (NOW) annual Show at the same time. In honor of these events we will issue a wooden nickel to be given out at the Show. DON'T MISS IT!

WE ~~WANT~~ NEED YOUR ARTICLES FOR NOW NEWS!



Please consider submitting an article about your favorite numismatic subject. It DOES NOT have to pertain to Wisconsin. The N.O.W. club and NOW NEWS will be better for your efforts. Not tech savvy? No matter, we can use your copy however you send it!

We can also assist with illustrations. No article too big or too small.

Send your article or inquiry to:
jkreichenberger@hotmail.com – or- NOW NEWS P.O. BOX 3572 Oshkosh, WI 54903

CLUB NEWS

Beaver Dam Coin Club

The Beaver Dam Coin Club held their successful second annual coin show on August 14th at the American Legion Post in Beaver Dam, WI. The club was founded in 1960, faded a bit in the 1980's and 90's but was revived in the 2000's and again boasts a strong, active membership. Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Beaver Dam Gold & Coin Shop, 135 Front St. Beaver Dam, WI. at 3pm.



Beaver Dam Coin Club members (L to R), Jim, Cody, Bob, Jody, Travis, Jess, Don, Charlie, and Harvey.



Madison Coin Club

The Club's December meeting was their annual holiday get-together, good food and friendship was had by all. At the November meeting we decided to develop a Club Facebook page. This would be good advertising and could help facilitate trading among members. We would like about three volunteers to create and maintain the future Club Page. It would take some work to get it set up, but not that much commitment after that. We will talk about it at the January meeting. If you would like to help develop it or have any ideas on how the future Club Page can work please attend the January meeting or let me know your ideas. The January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3 at the Ashman Library. (*Club Facebook page...sounds like a great idea!*) -Editor

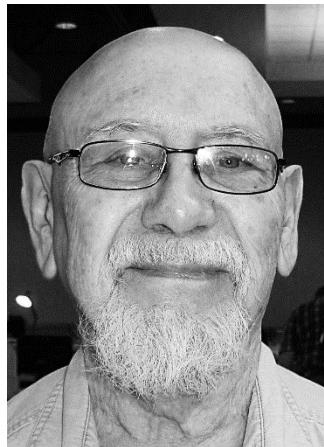
If you have club news you would like to share, please send it to jkreichenberger@hotmail.com, or send hard copy to: NOW NEWS, PO Box 3572, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

We can't publish your group's activities if you don't send them in. Thank you!

An interview with Glenn Wright Dealer in coins since 1960 – Part II

by Jerry Binsfeld #0091L

(This is Part II of a two part interview with Glenn Wright and is the second article in a series that focuses on experienced veteran Wisconsin coin dealers who are NOW members)



What are some sleeper coins (coins that are undervalued relative to their availability and price) in your opinion?

I don't really see anything underpriced in today's market. Years ago I bought 1792 and 1802 half dimes because they were so cheap. (They did well) Also I ran the price up on underpriced Morgan dollars (1893-P, 1893-S and 1894-P) by buying several hundred of each.

What are your thoughts on the U.S. Mint? Are they producing too many coins? Are any good investments? Are they helping or hurting the hobby?

The U.S. Mint seems to me to be over producing. Most, but not all, of their products drop in value as time passes. Don't see that as good for the hobby. I really hate being the bad guy when people bring in their proof and mint sets with the expectation of putting their children thru college on the profits.

Tell us about some of the rare coins and paper money you purchased and sold through the years.

We have had the opportunity to handle some of the classic rarities in U.S. coins and paper money over the years, including: 1792 VF half dime, 1802 XF half dime (Farouk specimen), 1802 VF half dime (Buddy Ebsen specimen), 1 roll (50 pieces) of 1793 large cents in one lot (1966), 1793 half cents (several), 1796 half cents (3 at one time about 2003), 1796 25 cents (several), gold Stellas (3 pieces), 1796-97 half dollars (several), Gobrecht dollars all daters, 1848 "Cal" 2 ½ gold, 1911D 2 ½ gold (several). A few ultra-rare Territorial National Bank Notes. Numerous one of a kind unique "discovery" National bank Notes. Pikes Peak \$10 Clark, Gruber & Co Territorial gold (several), Mormon Territorial Gold (several), Wass, Molitor & Co. Territorial Gold \$50.

How often were you a victim of a theft at coin shows or at your shop?

We have had items stolen from our table at a few coin shows. It may be impossible to keep everything under glass and still serve the public but constant vigilance is imperative.

What is your advice to customers at coin shows as to manners and to their actions to avoid looking like a thief?

We hope that honest collectors would shop without a lot of baggage (books, notes, envelopes, bags, previous purchases) and that they would keep prospective purchases on the table (counter) and not in their lap while they shop.

Give us some of your thoughts on silver and can we trust our government and our banks and your investment advice?

There have been speculative bubbles throughout history and these have at times included precious metals. We try to be sellers during these run-ups to avoid owning an overvalued inventory when the bubble bursts. Our government is totally corrupt and will most likely fail at some point in time. We are not licensed financial planners, so we can't legally advise our clients, but I personally own precious metals, real estate and other "hard" assets, while avoiding the banking system to whatever degree possible.

When you look at a coin do you always use an aid of a magnifying glass?

To grade coins, I use no magnification to determine eye appeal and then a 6 or 7 power glass for details. We use a microscope to examine mintmarks and other features to determine authenticity.

Do you have or did you have any 1856 flying eagle cents and or 1916 standing liberty quarters in you inventory and if so did they sell well?

We have handled numerous 1856 Flyers and 1916 S.L. Quarters. The flyers sell well at fair prices while the 1916 quarters are slower.

What type of customer do you like dealing with?

We love to entertain the well-read, well-informed collector and are happy to share with those who wish to expand their horizons. The know-it-all, highly misinformed individual is more of a challenge.

Have you ever owned a \$5000 dollar note and if so was there a profit when it was sold?

We bought a \$5000 note a few years ago in California from an established dealer and paid \$39000. Sold it a week or so later to an Iowa collector for \$40,000.

Do you have ancient coins in your inventory and how do they sell?

We do buy ancient coins at times, but don't have a strong collector base for them. They are a very small part of our business.

Have you owned any of the big three barber quarters, 1896S, 1901S, and the 1913S?

We have owned all of the key barbers. At one time some years ago I had 2 rolls (80 pieces) of 1913S quarters. They are popular and most of them have been sold.

Do you think the 2016 gold centennial mercury dime will be a good investment? (One dealer sent in 20 to a major grading service and 18 of 20 made the 70 grade)

I personally believe the gold mercury was overproduced and overpriced. We did not buy any.

What makes a good coin dealer?

A good coin dealer should be a knowledgeable numismatist, patient, helpful, and well capitalized. He or she should offer a secure setting in which to conduct personal and confidential business.

In the early 60's one could buy \$1000 face bags of silver dollars from the Treasury Department for face value. Did you ever buy any at the time or from others who did?

We didn't buy any but when they came out we got hit. We got a call from Harry Forman, a prominent Philadelphia dealer. He asked if we had any 1903-O dollars. We had one, a VF, which cost us \$1800.00, the going rate at the time. He told us that he had just left the Treasury Bldg. with a bag of fresh unc. 1903-O dollars. The coin went from rare to common. We lost \$1795 on that coin. We subsequently handled many dollars from that hoard.

Many coins are scarce in mint state but not so in the proof version, why is this so?

Usually the business strike of any issued coins are produced in far greater quantities than are proofs. Proofs, however, are saved in collections while the business strikes serve out their lives in daily circulation. At the end of the day, the proofs survive while many business strikes have been almost totally consumed in daily commerce.

There is only one key mercury dime, the 1916D, and at what grade does it become really scarce?

The 1916D Mercury dime is scarce in grades Fine through AU. It is quite available in grades Fair through VG and in Uncirculated grades. As a first year of the design, many were saved in uncirculated grade and remain so.

Should collectors buy key coins in low grade?

Low-grade key coins are quite acceptable. Better to fill the hole with an AG or a Good than to have a forever empty space for an otherwise unaffordable coin. I was very excited to purchase recently a Good 4 example of an 1849-O Seated Liberty Quarter. It is a truly rare and underrated date and the first I have ever owned.

What is your favorite series to have in your inventory?

Morgan Dollars and gold type coins are currently our favorite and the most popular.

Are \$500 and \$1000 notes a good investment?

We try to maintain a significant inventory of \$500 and \$1000 notes, as they are popular. We have handled hundreds of each. As an investment they are far from the best. We have seen a slow but relatively steady increase in values over the past 20 or so years.

Thank you Glenn Wright for taking time from your busy schedule to answer the above questions. Your insight and past experiences will help the NOW collector. Also, NOW members be sure to visit Glenn and his son at Knowles Gold and Silver, W2186 County Y, Knowles (Lomira) WI 53048 phone 920-269-1205 or see them at your coin club show for they have a great inventory. (and their smiley cute faces will add to your day) And finally if you want a program at one of your upcoming coin meetings use the interview questions to stimulate discussion and share with your members Glen's answers. Ed Rautmann from the Sheboygan Coin club suggested this and stated he did a program on this very idea and said it went over well.

Southeastern Wisconsin Coin Shows

WOW! GREAT SHOW!

Kenosha Coin Club Show – November 5

Kenosha Holiday Coin Show – December 4

AWESOME SHOW!
SELLOUT!!



DON'T
MISS IT!

*Racine Numismatic Society
Coin Show*

Sunday, February 26, 2017

9am – 3pm

Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring St., Racine
Free admission and parking

*Say 'Hello', ask questions, and do business with a good representation of
veteran Wisconsin coin dealers and loyal NOW members!!*

Evelyn Nesbit: The Girl on the Mirror

By Herbert Miles



(Sometimes through sheer irony we stumble upon a wonderful article to fill our pages. Thanks to Tom Casper for passing this on to me. As you know our last issue featured a trade mirror on the cover. As fate would have it, the fall issue of the TAMS Journal (Token and Medal Society) featured this article about the girl pictured on that trade mirror. It is a worthy follow-up to our fall cover photo, and generously used with permission from the author, Herbert Miles. Before this article appeared in the TAMS Journal, it was written for the Pacific Coast Numismatic Societies' Papers 2014-2015 as 'Florence Evelyn Nesbit Thaw'. We are grateful to reprint it here in NOW NEWS. Please check out the websites of TAMS: tokenandmedal.org and PCNS: pcns.org) -Editor

In 1901, the most famous face and perhaps, the most beautiful woman in the United States was a child, 16 year-old Florence Evelyn Nesbit, and this is her story.



Cruver Mfg. Co. of Chicago Good For mirror featuring the 16 year-old Evelyn Nesbit. This example was good for 10c in trade at Hotel Raymond, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.



Evelyn Nesbit at age 16 in 1901.
Photo by Rudolf Eickemeyer.

You may think that Britanny Spears, Lindsay Lohan, Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton, and for us older folks, Marilyn Monroe, are the first of a breed of publicity-seeking, morally suspect, beautiful women whose notoriety sells huge quantities of newspapers, books and magazines. But, you would be wrong.

Indeed, they may be the descendants of the first modern American woman to captivate the general public; and they may also fade in the glare of Florence Evelyn Nesbit's supernova light, that is, if you know the tale.

Her story begins in 1884 or 1885 when she was born in the small town of Tarentum near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her father was a small town lawyer and her mother, a homemaker. Evelyn's early childhood was unremarkable, but upon the death of her beloved father when she was about 10, her world changed forever. The death of the sole breadwinner in the late 1800s meant that Evelyn, her younger brother, Howard, and her mother were thrown into poverty unless taken in by other family members.

Of course the extended family members had their own mouths to feed and bills to pay. They could not permanently care for three additional charges. Evelyn's mother attempted to obtain employment as a seamstress, having a natural sewing ability. But she was ill-equipped to find work having been a homemaker all those years, and her lack of confidence, lack of experience (no formal Paris training!), and perhaps her fear of leaving the children alone kept her from succeeding.

She managed a boarding house for a bit, but even collecting the rents during those hard times was beyond her ability to do successfully, so she began sending her 11 year old daughter to collect the rents, believing that residents would have difficulty saying "no" to a young girl. Naturally, a boarder with little or no money can say no to anyone, even a child.

Periodically Mrs. Nesbit sent the children to live with relatives on nearby farms so she could travel to Pittsburgh or Philadelphia to look for seamstress work or any other gainful occupation.

She finally obtained work as a salesclerk in Wanamaker's, a Philadelphia department store, and was successful in getting additional work for her young daughter and son at the same location. It appeared the family might be able to make ends meet and move forward. However, the 12-hour days for 6 days a week had a negative effect on her young son Howard. He was sent back to a relative's farm near Tarentum to recover while she and Evelyn continued to work at Wanamaker's.



Evelyn found work as a model at age 12 and by 16, was a popular model for photographers. Photo - Eickemeyer.

But Evelyn's life changed forever at age 12 as she was wandering down Philadelphia's Arch Street one Sunday admiring the clothing and material in the shops. Reflected in one shop's window was a woman staring at Evelyn. Introducing herself as Mrs. Darach, a local portrait artist, she invited Evelyn to pose. Evelyn brought her mother to Mrs. Darach's studio later that same day and received one dollar for a 5 hour sitting! Average hourly wages at this time for females amounted to between 10 cents to 18 cents per hour.

Another local artist, John Storm, also requested weekly sittings and soon Evelyn was posing for many local Philadelphia artists including Violet Oakley, who had received stained glass training under Louis Comfort Tiffany, Jessie Wilcox Smith, and Elizabeth Shippen Green, all women graduates of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Oakley used Evelyn's adolescent face and figure to portray angels, doll heads, and other heavenly figures on stained glass in a number of churches in Philadelphia, and perhaps even in New York.

Evelyn's fame spread and other artists used her for long sittings; professional photographers commented on her ability to hold poses for hours and also began to photograph her. Evelyn and her family's future seemed secure, but suddenly in 1900 her mother decided to go to New York, the center of modeling, to increase Evelyn's success.

She took letters of introduction provided by the artists to introduce Evelyn to New York's artist community, but left her children behind with relatives until she could secure "something" for the family. After months of fruitless searching for work for herself and after exhausting what funds Evelyn had earned, she sought out noted painter James Carroll Beckwith, showing him photographs of her then 15 year-old daughter. Beckwith, immediately entranced, wanted to meet the model in person. Soon thereafter, he introduced her to other legitimate artists and her angelic and malleable face and figure began appearing on all manner of media.



1903 Charles Dana Gibson's drawing of Evelyn Nesbit: *Woman, The Eternal Question*.



Undated postcard, ca. 1902. Posing in one of Stanford White's antique kimonos. The title, Ready for Mischief, hints at her role in White's life.

Postcards, calendars, magazine covers, advertisements, from toothpaste to beer to Coca Cola trays, sheet music, pinbacks, advertising mirrors, and more all featured her likeness.

Charles Dana Gibson portrayed her as the "Eternal Question" of inscrutable femininity in 1903. She was more famous at this time than any woman had ever been in the United States, more popular than Kim Kardashian could ever hope to be!

Broadway beckoned and she chose to become a chorus girl at the tender age of 16 in "Floradora," a popular musical production at the Moorish Casino, lying or shading her true age from the producers. At age 16, she hardly knew that Broadway chorus girls were considered no more than gold diggers at best or prostitutes at worst. It was merely exciting for her and more fun than hours and hours posing sedately, even though she continued her lucrative posing during the day.

Stage door Johnnies appeared in abundance, but 46 year-old Stanford White, architect of the elite and moneyed class, introduced to Evelyn by another chorus girl, thrust himself into her life. Although married, he bought her gifts, repaired her teeth, paid for her music lessons, moved her mother into a nicer hotel, and otherwise made himself indispensable to their lives. The foremost architect in New York, he had designed many of the homes of the rich and famous, the Whitneys, Vanderbilts, and Pulitzers. He designed Madison Square Garden, Penn Station, and hundreds of other monuments and buildings in New York, and was friends with Augustus Saint Gaudens, one of the foremost sculptors of the day and designer of the \$20 gold piece minted from 1907 to 1933.

White was a known debaucher; young girls were his prey and Evelyn was his newest target. Upon entering her mother's and her life, he wined and dined Evelyn, then drugged the youngster one night and took her virginity in his midtown "love nest," the one with the red velvet swing. White loved to see Evelyn swing naked on his red velvet swing, swinging higher and higher until she kicked through a paper parasol he positioned discreetly above her naked legs. Though difficult to believe after White's admitted debauchery, Evelyn declared later in life that he was the only man she ever truly loved!

White was smitten but, alas, there were other chorus girls to entice him and his affair with Evelyn lasted only about a year. In her attempts to make him jealous, she took up with a variety of famous and rich suitors, John Barrymore, among them, but Harry K. Thaw, a Pittsburgh son of wealth, wore her resistance down and won her over with ceaseless entreaties.

Such a marriage was a mistake as Harry K. Thaw was either insane or seriously demented. For many years, Harry had regarded Stanford White as an impediment to his entry into high society and now after Evelyn's confession of White's behavior, Harry knew that White was a "beast" who had debauched Evelyn and many other teenage beauties. Thaw seethed inside at the mere mention of White. Thaw had White followed and his transgressions reported to the local police hoping they would prosecute him for taking advantage of numerous young chorus girls, but to no avail.



Evelyn Nesbit photographed by Otto Sarony in 1901.

Circumstances came to a head a little over a year after Evelyn's marriage to Thaw. On June 25, 1906, in an amphitheater on the top of the Stanford White designed Madison Square Garden, Harry K. Thaw shot White 3 times at point blank range, killing him instantly then declaring White had "ruined his wife, and had it coming to him."

The ensuing legal proceeding was called the "Trial of the Century" and featured all the trappings of modern society; chorus girls, tales of debauchery, the rich and famous being brought low, scandals, theatrical excesses, and more. Newspapers tripled, and then quadrupled their circulation as the trial of Thaw commenced. Evelyn, who had been famous as a face of advertising and beauty, gained even more notoriety. Her face as drawn by courtroom artists graced hundreds of newspapers for weeks as the trial progressed.

After 11 weeks, the first trial ended in a hung jury; a second trial followed where Thaw was declared "insane" and committed to New York's Matteawan Asylum for the Criminally Insane until he could be declared competent.

Florence Evelyn Nesbit Thaw was approximately 21 years old!

Can one's life peak at age 21 and then slowly grind along until death? Perhaps that was Evelyn's fate. Even though her testimony was crucial for keeping Harry from the electric chair, the Thaw family disowned her, leaving her facing poverty once again.



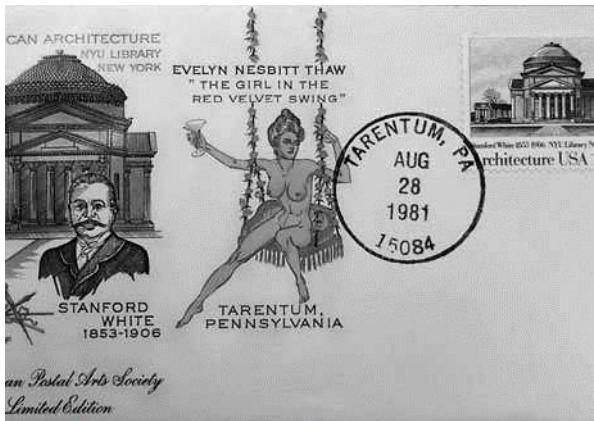
Sheet music ca. 1916 with the 30 year-old Evelyn pictured in the circle on the cover.

For a while, she continued her chorus girl work, made Vaudeville appearances, developed a song and dance act with new partners, wrote her memoirs twice, and eventually opened a ceramics studio in southern California. There have been rumors of drug abuse, suicide attempts, and other human transgressions, but who knows?

She finally succumbed to death in 1967, 61 years after the "Trial of the Century."

Nevertheless, as portrayed in books and movies, she will be known forever as the “Girl in the Red Velvet Swing,” the most titillating fact in her short time with Stanford White, Evelyn reduced to no more than an oddly sad oversexualized image.

For the row house at 22 West 24th Street where Stanford “seduced” 16 year-old Evelyn, it fell into disrepair and collapsed in 2011, leaving nothing but a pile of bricks. One viewer commented at the sight of the rubble, “It was just another old New York building. There were rats on the bottom and pigeons on the top.”



American Postal Arts Society first day cover for the 1981 Stanford White American Architecture stamp with a drawing of Evelyn Nesbit on the notorious Red Velvet Swing.

And as for Florence Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, once the most beautiful and popular woman in America, among the dross, numismatists have a proliferation of “Good For” advertising trade mirrors with her likeness to keep her young forever, “The Girl on the Mirror.”

References:

American Eve “Crime of the Century,” Paula Uruburu, Riverhead Books, 2008.

Tragic Beauty, The Lost 1914 Memoirs of Evelyn Nesbit, John Long Ltd, London, 2006.

Evelyn Nesbit and Stanford White, Love and Death in the Gilded Age, Michael Macdonald Mooney, William Morrow and Company, New York, 1976.

“Ragtime,” movie directed by Milos Forman, 1981.

New York Times, March 23, 2011, “The Girl, the Swing and a Row House in Ruins.”

Arts & Crafts Quarterly Magazine, Volume V, No 2, 1992.

Inflating Away: The Belgian 5 Franc Piece

by Mark Benvenuto #2089

When it comes to big countries that have had a big impact on the world stage, well, folks don't normally think of Belgium. After all, even though the land is ancient, the country is of relatively recent origin, and even had to go hunt down a king for the newly created nation, back in 1831. Interestingly, they found one in nearby Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and the man who would become King Leopold I was on the throne from 1831 all the way to 1865.

As with many of the European nations of the nineteenth century, Belgium utilized a system of copper, silver, and gold coinage, with the Belgian 5-franc coin being the largest of those made from silver. At 25 grams of 0.900 fine silver, each piece contained 0.7234 ounces of the precious metal. This is just a bit smaller than the U.S. Seated Liberty dollars minted at roughly the same time.



From 1832 all the way up to 1865, with some missing years in the line-up, there were large, silver 5-franc coins produced, each sporting the image of a royal Leo I on the obverse, and the date and value within a wreath on the reverse. As well, the wording: "L' Union Fait La Force" eventually makes its appearance on the reverse, meaning: "Union makes strength" (the motto of this small nation). Several of the years within this string are common, and since the collector base in the United States is rather thin when it comes to the coins of Belgium, these common dates are still very affordable.

By 1850 the reverse of the 5-franc had changed to the coat of arms with a crowned rampant lion – and that motto had come into play. This is the reverse that would take the 5-franc pieces up to 1865, and up to the second of the Belgian monarchs.



King Leopold II was actually the second son of his father, but the oldest to survive to adulthood, and thus assumed the throne upon his father's passing. He reigned for 44 years, which might make us think there are a huge number of Belgian 5-franc pieces out there with his name on them. Unfortunately, by 1876 this big, silver disk had seen its last hurrah as a circulating coin. For the year 1878 the Krause catalogs list 3 known – it's a fair bet we'll never get the chance to own one.

Still, between two kings, there are several 5-franc coins a person might wish to start with, in forming any collection. There are two different images of Leopold I, or perhaps we might define them as having two different reverses. There is what may be called a large head

and a small head version of the 5-franc pieces of Leopold II, which is fairly obvious if you are able to compare the two side by side. And there is one further option, which we'll get to in a moment.

After the large, 5-franc coins of the second of the Leopolds, there were no 5-franc coins at all until 1930, and at the point of these new coins, all the silver was gone. The coin had gotten a lot smaller, and had become a piece made from nickel metal. As to why the denomination was halted in the late 1870's, it's hard to tell. As to why the 5-franc coin that emerged in 1930 was base metal, well, that's most likely just one bit of long-term fallout from the First World War. Belgium had been torn up in the war, and actually was the ally who demanded that Germany pay war reparations. But whatever the reason, as one might imagine, these nickel 5-franc pieces, now of King Albert I, are very inexpensive today – and are collectible in pairs. You see, despite Belgium being a small country, it has two official languages that end up on its coins, French and Dutch (sometimes called Belgian Dutch or Flemish). There are plenty of francs from this time with "5 Francs" on the reverse, and probably an equal number with "5 Franks." Yes, it's a little thing, but it matters to the folks who used them.

Curiously, although the 5-franc coin had lost its silver by the twentieth century, there was still some silver in Belgian coinage. It had simply migrated to higher denominations, like the somewhat debased 20-franc pieces, which were 0.680 silver. For a big, silver coin of the time, there is a 50-franc commemorative in 1935, and a couple of years of circulating 50-franc pieces, in 1939 and 1940.

Most folks are aware that the Blitzkrieg put an end to an independent Belgium for most of the Second World War. Nazi-occupied Belgium issued zinc 5-franc pieces, which some collectors do try to assemble, but that others think of as ugly, dark bits of small change. And after the war, although there were 5-franc coins issued for decades, they are all base metal coins, either in copper-nickel, or by the 1980's aluminum-bronze.

We said a moment ago that there was one more, big, silver 5-franc coin issued under the authority of Belgium. What we are talking about are the Belgian Congo 5-francs. These were minted to the same size and fineness as the earliest 5-franc pieces, but were only made in 1887, 1891, 1894, and 1896. The entire history of the colony that was the Belgian Congo – that ultimately became the independent nation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo – is one of exploitation of natural resources, and of a country taking over an area that only one man really wanted. The one man though, was Leopold II. As part of his push into the heart of Africa, a monetary system was set up that used francs, just like the home country. The four 5-franc pieces that are large and silver will always cost a few hundred dollars in higher grades but that shouldn't make them impossible to own. Any later 5-franc Belgian Congo coins suffered the same fate as those at home; they slowly inflated away.

Belgium may be a small country, but it has a rather large, rather interesting history reflected in its coinage. There are plenty of 5-franc coins a person might collect, including some impressive silver ones from the nineteenth century.

California man finds 18oz. gold nugget

NEWS FLASH!

Panning for gold in a creek near Jamestown, CA, Oscar Espinoza of Modesto discovered the nugget within the Gold Prospecting Adventures mining camp on Labor Day weekend. At approximately \$1350 and once, the nugget is worth around \$24,000, and could certainly carry a premium of much more than that if Mr. Espinoza should decide to sell. His immediate plans are to keep it in safe storage. (*Thar's still gold in them thar hills!*)-Editor



FOR SALE

COLLECTION OF WISCONSIN SALOON TOKENS (Metal)

Collection Includes 51 of 102 different saloon tokens known and 20 unknown to Gene Johnson in his "Trade Tokens of Wisconsin." Some of the tokens include; Peter Cada Saloon of Allouez, Blue Front Saloon of Elroy, Wm. Miller Saloon of Highland, Liberty Bell Saloon of Hurley, The Elk Saloon of Janesville, Gold Dust Saloon of La Crosse, 6th Ward Saloon of Manitowoc, Green Front Saloon of Marathon, Wm. F. Bandow Saloon of Milan, J.A. Gamperle Saloon of Monticello, The Badger Saloon of Neosho, Victor Zandi Saloon of Pence, Rothschilds Saloon of Rothschilds, William Steffen's Saloon of Sheboygan, Schuld Bros. Saloon of Waukesha, and Welcome Saloon of Wausau.

If you are seriously interested please contact me and I can send a complete list of Wisconsin Saloon tokens that I know of and those included in my collection. The price for the collection is \$14,500.00 and **will not** be broken up.

Mike Tramte, P.O. Box 12274, Green Bay, WI 54307 - 920-499-0818 - matramte@aol.com

(This article is reproduced courtesy of THE NUMISMATIST, official publication of the American Numismatic Association (www.money.org). I contacted Editor-in-Chief of The Numismatist, Barbara Gregory, and author Jerome Walton to ask permission to reprint this piece. I hope you'll agree that this article just felt like it deserved a place in NOW NEWS. —Editor)

DeSoto Where? A paper money attribution mystery

By Jerome Walton

In the 1860s, during the American Civil War, citizens hoarded coins, thereby creating a need for paper versions of small denominations. Employers and merchants issued scrip for use in paying workers and for making change.

As a collector of obsolete bank notes, particularly from Nebraska and surrounding area, I came across an interesting specimen, one that led to a hunt through historical records and the chance to right a wrong. The uniface 10-cent note was dated November 10 or 11, 1862, and bore the name of its town of origin—De Soto—but not the state. I assumed it was issued in Nebraska, as it was cataloged as such by a major numismatic auction house. That conclusion appears to be incorrect.



This DeSoto 10-cent note, dated November 11, 1862, was incorrectly attributed to Nebraska, and signer Jon C. King. (The actual signer was Jno [Jonathon] C. Kurtz.)

Approx. size 48 x 87mm

Photo: Heritage Auctions

Searching References

In my quest for information about the issue, I consulted a variety of references, searching for “De Soto” and the name of the printing firm, which was identified on the note as “Haislet Bro’s, Printers, Union Office, Lansing.” I began with a 1968 U.S. Postal Service directory, which listed 10 towns named Lansing and 8 named DeSoto or De Soto. Three states—Illinois, Iowa and Kansas—have both towns within their borders.

In Dean G. Oakes’ 1982 reference *Iowa Obsolete Notes and Scrip*, I found no notes listed for Lansing. Likewise, under the heading “Engravers, Lithographers and Printers Imprints,” there was no mention of “Haislet Bro’s.”

In Illinois, Lansing is a southeast suburb of Chicago, on the state line between Illinois and Indiana. DeSoto is in Jackson County, near the southern tip of Illinois. The 313-mile distance between them made the issuer/printer connection improbable, but not impossible.

Lansing, Iowa, is in the far northeast part of the state, while De Soto lies 20 miles west of Des Moines. Again, the distance—260 miles—made a bank-note collaboration between the two cities unlikely.

Lansing, Kansas, is 5 miles south of Leavenworth. De Soto is south of Lansing, on the western edge of Kansas City. At 25 miles apart, these were the closest yet, and I hoped I was onto something.

The Haislet Brothers

Before looking deeper into the Kansas connection, I took some time to research the printing firm. In *Security Printers*, published by the American Society of Check Collectors, I found no entry for Haislet Bro's. A search for "Haislet" on Ancestry.com revealed George W. Haislet and his brothers Samuel and Frank, all of whom were newspapermen in northeastern Iowa.

George Haislet was born in 1835 in Michigan and died on March 6, 1881, in Decorah, Iowa, where he was editor and proprietor of the *Decorah Radical*. He also launched *Cresco*, Iowa's first newspaper.

On the Trail

This bit of information about George Haislet prompted me to take another look at Lansing, Iowa. East of the town, across the Mississippi River, is Wisconsin, which was on my list of states that had a town of De Soto, a little less than 6 miles away! This moment of discovery was truly serendipitous.

The De Soto note was issued in the fall of 1862, when George Haislet started up *The Lansing Weekly Union* in Iowa, thereby explaining the printer's identification on the note, "Union Office." It was not unusual for newspapers to take odd printing jobs to generate additional income, which seems to be true in this case.

The Town of De Soto, Wisconsin, sits east of Lansing, Iowa, across the Mississippi River. Today, the Black Hawk Bridge crosses the mighty river, linking Iowa State Highway 82 and Highway 9 and Wisconsin State Highway 35. In the 1860s, a Lansing/De Soto ferry operated there. Historical records indicate that, in 1884, it was owned by Charles E. Reiter.



According to *History of Vernon County Wisconsin*, published in 1884, De Soto was laid out in 1854. The post office opened in 1855; the second postmaster was Dr. Osgood, assisted by his deputy J.C. Kurtz (Jonathon, or “Jno” for short), the signer of the scrip.

A second 10-cent De Soto note, dated November 8, 1862, is illustrated in my 1978 book, *A History of Nebraska Banking and Paper Money*. The specimen bears the names of Whiting & Carr. C.B. Whiting was the third postmaster of De Soto, and Fred Carr was deputy postmaster. Whiting & Carr also owned a steam mill, which was destroyed by fire in July 1865. The photograph was accompanied by the notation “Attribution to Nebraska is not certain on this item.” Both this and the previous example identify the producer as “Haislet Bro’s, Printers, Union Office, Lansing.”



A second specimen, dated November 8, 1862, is signed by Whiting & Carr. Photo: James McKee/Robert B. Kelley

Along the left side of both notes is the statement “Payable in Current Funds When Presented in Sums of One Dollar.” This requirement makes the survival of these two examples of merchant scrip—presently the only specimens known to exist—even more miraculous.

So, it appears the notes are now correctly attributed—they were printed in Iowa for use in Wisconsin. But more questions remain to be answered. We know little about the printer, Haislet Bro’s. How many merchants did the company supply? How were the notes printed? Were they produced singly or as multiple images on a sheet? Are additional examples out there, waiting to be found? Perhaps other merchant scrip aficionados can offer some insight.



The Black Hawk Bridge spans the Mississippi River, connecting Lansing, Iowa and DeSoto, Wisconsin. Construction began in 1929, and the cantilevered structure was completed in 1931.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following for their assistance and encouragement: my daughters, Vicky Garner and Valerie Williams; David and Monica King; Robert B. Kelley; and James L. McKee.

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Photo of the Black Hawk Bridge: Wikimedia commons/Tony Webster

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What's New at the U.S. Mint?

Walking Liberty 2016 Centennial Gold Coin

Introducing the 2016 Walking Liberty Half Dollar Centennial Gold Coin! This coin's release is an event that's been 100 years in the making.

Beautifully struck in .9999 fine, 24-karat gold, this 2016 centennial anniversary release celebrates Adolph A. Weinman's original "Walking Liberty" half dollar design. Each gold coin contains one-half troy ounce of 24-karat gold, symbolic of the coin's denomination, and has a business strike finish.

The obverse features a full-length figure of Liberty in full stride, enveloped in folds of the flag, with her right hand extended and branches of laurel and oak in her left. Inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "2016."

The reverse depicts an American eagle rising from a mountaintop perch. Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "AU," "24K," "1/2 OZ.," and "HALF DOLLAR."



Each coin is encapsulated and hand-packaged in a custom-designed, black matte hardwood presentation case and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

In 2016, the U.S. Mint has marked the centennial anniversary of three numismatic icons with the release of the Mercury Dime, Standing Liberty Quarter, and Walking Liberty Half Dollar Centennial Gold Coins.

There is a mintage limit of 70,000 pieces, and no order limit. The Walking Liberty 2016 Centennial Gold Coin was struck at the West Point mint and sells for \$840.00.

Order yours today at; usmint.gov/walking-liberty-2016-centennial-gold-coin





ANA NEWS



ANA Unveils Treasures In Your Pocket

To encourage budding coin collectors, the ANA has launched Treasures in Your Pocket, an innovative website resource that provides information to anyone embarking on a numismatic treasure hunt. Treasures in Your Pocket highlights the initial “coin hunting” steps for beginners to take, which will prepare them to recognize the subtle nuances and variations of a collectible coin.

It can be difficult recognizing the difference between ordinary pocket change and a collectible coin, but the opportunity still exists to find something rare and unique. Treasures in Your Pocket not only provides hobbyists with specific strategies and information for spotting collectible coins in spare change, but also offers a gateway to the broader world of collecting. For instance, in 2014 a collector discovered a 1969-S Lincoln cent in his pocket change. Upon further inspection, he realized it was a rare doubled die cent. The value of his find? \$19,800.

The logo features a gold dollar coin on the left side. The coin's reverse side is shown, featuring an eagle with wings spread, holding an olive branch and arrows, with the text "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA", "E PLURIBUS UNUM", and "ONE DOLLAR". To the right of the coin, the words "TREASURES" are written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below "TREASURES", the words "in your pocket" are written in a large, white, cursive font. In the bottom right corner of the logo, there is a dark grey rectangular box containing the text "September 2016" in a white, sans-serif font.

For additional information about the American Numismatic Association and its activities, please visit www.money.org, email pr@money.org or call (719) 632-2646.



BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

PRESS RELEASE: Department of the Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing Celebrates the Chinese New Year

Washington, DC (October 19, 2016) – In celebration of the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is pleased to announce a new addition to its Lucky Money Collection: **Year of the Rooster 2017**.

The rooster is one of 12 zodiac signs associated with the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Year of the Rooster 2017 is exquisitely designed with decorative Chinese symbolism and is packaged in a symbolic, red folder with embossed, gold foil. This product features an uncirculated, \$1 Federal Reserve note with a serial number beginning with "8888." The Year of the Rooster 2017 represents good fortune and prosperity, signifying success in the New Year. This product is \$5.95 and only 88,888 will be available for sale. Bulk pricing is available for the Year of the Rooster 2017.



福祿壽喜臨門
金銀財寶齊來

The Rooster is one of the 12 zodiac symbols associated with the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Some Chinese believe their fate is closely tied to the zodiac symbols in the year in which they were born. May the Chinese expression "as you wish" bring you peace and happiness in the "Year of the Rooster" and years to come.

Wishing you success, wealth and fortune with the enclosed uncirculated \$1 Federal Reserve note, which features a serial number beginning with 8888. In many Asian communities, the number 8 signifies wealth and prosperity. May this Lucky Money Note bring you success and may all of your wishes be fulfilled in the "Year of the Rooster."



恭喜發財



For additional information about BEP or to purchase products, please visit bep.gov. BEP products may also be ordered by telephone (1-800-456-3408), by fax (1-888-891-7585), or mail (Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Mail Order Sales, 515M, 14th and C Streets, SW, Washington, DC, 20228).

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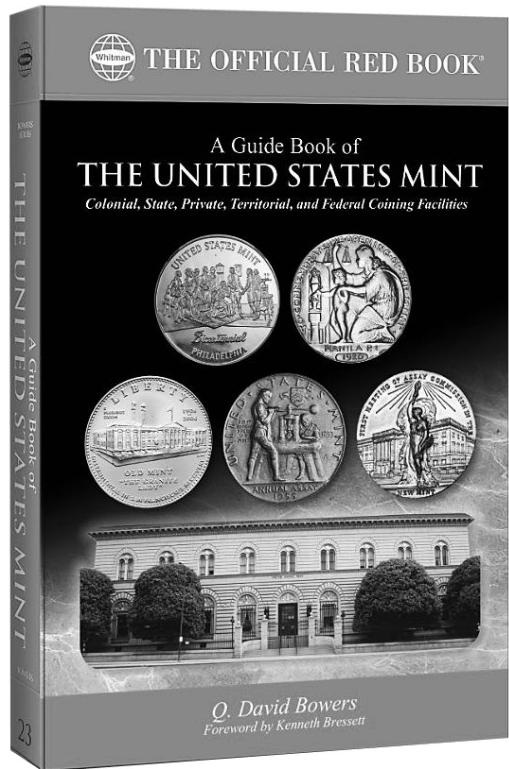
A Guide Book of the United States Mint

By Q. David Bowers

Whitman Publishing announces the release of *A Guide Book of the United States Mint*, by Q. David Bowers. The 448-page softcover book is available from booksellers and hobby shops nationwide, and online.

The 23rd volume in the award-winning Bowers Series explores the heart of American coin collecting: the United States Mint itself, which is gearing up to celebrate its 225th anniversary in 2017 with special coins and medals.

The U.S. Mint is the official source of the material that numismatists collect, study, and catalog. It is the sole manufacturer of the nation's legal-tender coinage and national medals, and its products are used every day by millions of Americans nationwide. As a federal repository its facilities safeguard more than \$300 billion in national assets. It employs nearly 2,000 people, including its own police force.



Bowers's new book unearths a treasure trove of numismatic knowledge, including the history of the Philadelphia Mint and every Mint branch, plus colonial, state, private, and territorial mints; information on historical and modern minting procedures; a study and price guide of historic medals and collectibles commemorating the Mint; data on every director of the Mint and superintendents for every branch; and illustrated behind-the-scenes looks at the modern Mint and its facilities. The text is illustrated by nearly 1,300 photographs, engravings, diagrams, blueprints, and other images.

Chapters cover: early American money and commerce; early mints in British North America (e.g., colonial Massachusetts and Connecticut) and the post-Revolutionary War states; the first federal coinage; the Philadelphia Mint; the New Orleans Mint; the Charlotte Mint; the Dahlonega Mint; the San Francisco Mint; the Carson City Mint; the Denver Mint; the West Point Mint; the Manila Mint in the Philippines; and private and territorial mints such as those of Templeton Reid, the Bechtler family, and many issuers of California and Colorado gold pieces. Chapter 13 covers “Mints That Never Were”—the Cincinnati Mining & Trading Company, the Dalles Mint in Oregon, LeRoy Henning’s nickel-counterfeiting operation in New Jersey, and others.

Four appendices include, among other things, a study of medals and other collectibles related to the U.S. Mint—Assay Commission medals, Mint director medals, Philadelphia Mint superintendent medals, service medals, Mint ledgers and paperwork, postcards, books, and more.

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differences being the smaller strips are shorter and the neck treatment different on the Vermont dies. The lettering on the reverse is from different punches than used on Connecticut issues. Rarity: 120 to 240 are known.

1766, Bust Left (Brenett 9-H, ER-11, W-2050). Obverse: A portrait of King George II, copied from English engravings, is on the obverse. The V is closer to the bust than on the preceding, for the C is too small and is placed high. Reverse: The bust head is opposite the right of the E. Notes:

These are usually seen with planchet defects and dark surfaces. The obverse die was used to strike some examples of RR-11, then RR-13, then most of ER-11. Rarity: 11 to 124 are known.



1767, Bust Left (Brenett 9-L, ER-15, W-2060). Obverse: The obverse is the same as Brenett 9-H. Reverse: All examples seen have a massive die crack obscuring much of the date. The rarity of this issue suggests that the die had a very short life.

Notes: These are usually seen with planchet defects and dark surfaces. The obverse die was first used to strike W-2050, then some of W-2060 as seen here, then additional specimens of W-2060. While this is a rare variety, its market value goes beyond that consideration as it is actively collected in the only year in which this type was made, and is listed in *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. An example is known struck over a Brenett J-G (RR-6, W-2051) and George III halfpence, the latter most common. Rarity: 17 to 32 are known.



In 1767 Robert Marion Jr. entered into an arrangement with a number of other individuals involved in coinage. Ownership interest and connection was formed between the Vermont copper enterprise and Machin's Mills, a private mint (see below), located on the shore of Orange County near Newburgh, New York. At the new location, enough of Vermont copper contained, but of different designs.

Machin's Mills Mint Newburgh, New York (1767-1780)

The private mint known to numismatists as Machin's Mills was probably the most prolific North American mint during the years from 1767 to 1780. With the exception of Vermont copper, which will be treated first in the listing to follow, each and every coin was a counterfeit. Other than the authority from Vermont that Robert Marion Jr. brought from Rupert, Vermont, in 1767, none of the Machin's Mills coins had any legal status. This made little difference at the time. Legal tender was ill-defined, and the millions of British copper in circled coins at the time had been made in London by the country from which America had declared independence. Few Americans would have cared if anyone counterfeited them, more important, any copper coins were less the size of British halfpenny readily circulated in American commerce.

Chapter 6: Philadelphia Mint, 1790 to Date 335



Rooms where ingots are rolled from thin strips, from which planchets are cut.



Handling planchets from thin metal strips.

Planishing planchets with a rolling machine.



Casting Room at the Mint.

"Dave Bowers takes you on a 'you are there' experience with over three dozen mints," writes Kenneth Bressett in the book's foreword. "I know you will enjoy this delightful narrative!"



CHARLOTTE MINT, 1838-1861

GOLD IN NORTH CAROLINA

In 1799 in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, 12-year-old Conrad Reed found a 17-pound "gleaming mass" in Little Meadow Creek on his father's farm.⁵ Not knowing what it was, he took it home where it was used as a doorstop. Not long afterward it was purchased by a local jeweler, who recognized it as gold. This discovery in various iterations became a twice-told tale in the annals of 19th-century America. By 1852 the news of gold in the area drew many fortune seekers. In 1854 John Pfifer, a miner in the area, sent a shipment of dust and nuggets to the Philadelphia Mint, and others did as well, creating the first source of native North Carolina gold in Mint records. That year about \$11,000 was received. From then through 1864, shipments were regular, according to reports, but never reached the 1864 total. From the *Annual Report for 1870*:



The Charlotte Mint (Courtesy George Odell)

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OTHER COINAGE MINTS

PRIVATE AND TERRITORIAL MINTS

Templeton Reid

Milledgeville and Gainesville,
Georgia (1830)



Templeton Reid Gold
gold coins coined in the
summer of 1830, received
from the private and public
funds of the Southern mining districts.

By the latter half of the 1820s news spread of gold discoveries in Georgia. Many fortune seekers came to the district. Milledgeville, then the main capital, was one of the centers of activity. Templeton Reid, a gunsmith and clockmaker, sensed an opportunity to fill a commercial need by converting gold dust, then traded by weight in the area, into coins. On July 24, 1830, an article appeared in the *Southern Encyclopede* which told of Reid's new enterprise:

We have examined, during the past week, with great pleasure, an apparatus invented by our very ingenious fellow citizen, Mr. Templeton Reid for the purpose of passing gold dust in shapes more convenient than that in which it is originally found. He makes with great facility and great economy, plow-work one, five, and ten and a half dollars. No alloy is mixed with it, and it does not warp that it cannot be easily melted. He can manufacture dollars, and convert passing his apparatus into operations, as soon as he pleases them.

About \$100 worth of Georgia Gold has been converted by our ingenious countryman, Mr. Templeton Reid, with handsome dies, showing the several values of each piece of metal, in parcels of \$2.50, \$5, and \$10, ... \$6. Reid informs us that the gold dust required by him will be sold at the \$150 and a nose of the bullion for the value it purports on its face or less. This will give a money general currency, and make it answer the purposes of money....

Shortly thereafter Templeton Reid moved to Gainesville, which was renamed closer to the center of actual mining activity. Coins were made and put into circulation, including one specimen which, unfortunately for Reid, found its way to a disgruntled citizen who signed himself anonymously as "No Anonym" in a letter to the Georgia

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A Guide Book of the United States Mint

By Q. David Bowers; foreword by Kenneth Bressett

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HUMOROUS NUMIS

- by Jeff Reichenberger #1933

If you have planned numismatic gifting this holiday season, beware! This is the story of a package received from the United States Mint.

THE SHREDDED BOX

At 6 p.m. I walked through the door, when my eyes were drawn to a sight on the floor...
There lay a box all shredded and broken, that once cradled a coin before it was open...
Packing foam peanuts all clingy with static, were spread from the cellar floor to the attic...
The treasure within had an outermost wrap, a cellophane bag now ripped into scrap...
Next I discovered a torn paper sheath, that slid onto a white glossy box underneath...
The decorative box of shimmering white, was flat as a pancake, crushed and contrite...
I then found a box of velvety blue, the hinge had been sprung and broken in two...
Out fell a cushion, a silken sham, all smeared with a substance like strawberry jam...
The following scene was entirely drastic, a shattered and splintered capsule of plastic...
The hard plastic capsule where the coin was encased, lay there in pieces all over the place...
It once sat in the cushion now covered in goo, that fell out of the box of velvety blue...
The brand new box of velvety blue, with a busted up hinge that was cracked in two...
From the proud little box of glossy white, that with heinous dispatch had lost the fight...
They all fit so cozily tucked underneath, the now crumpled and torn apart paper sheath...
Sealed up in the bag, the outermost wrap, the cellophane bag now nothing but scrap...
Once protected by peanuts, clingy with static, dispersed from the cellar floor to the attic...
And all packed in the box, shredded and broken, that cradled the coin before it was open...

It was only a matter of simple deduction, that led to the culprit of all this destruction...
The redhead it was, my offspring thug, she sat there among the debris on the rug...
I caught her before she could run to her mother, jellyroll in one hand, coin in the other...
The coin was sticky with red jelly prints, a large silver proof from the United States Mint...
It was ruined by a numismatist's measure, but to her it was an immeasurable treasure...
We smiled and she gave me a jellyroll kiss, and ran off with the coin in her toddler bliss...

And stuck to her bottom like divine serendipity, the parchment certificate of authenticity...
With the packaging the certificate did come, official document now stuck to her bum...
Along with the coin, sticky with prints, a proof that came from the United States Mint...
Which was once airtight, safe, and fantastic, in the now obliterated capsule of plastic...
All nestled inside the cushioned sham, now covered with remnants of strawberry jam...
The silken cushion smeared with goo, came out of the box of velvet blue...
A lovely box when it was new, now the hinge was snapped and broken in two...
From the glossy box, once sturdy and tight, now flat as a pancake in decorative white...
It was all tucked carefully just underneath, what once was a paper protective sheath...
Encased in the bag, cellophane wrapped, the outermost cover severed and scrapped...
The Styrofoam peanuts, clingy with static, spread out from the cellar floor to the attic...
All out of the box, now shredded and broken, that cradled the coin before it was open...

Seven layers of packaging couldn't withstand, the exuberant genius of her tiny hands...
Packing peanuts still stuck to my socks, along with cardboard and tape from the box...
Slack-jawed and weak from all this emotion, I needed a drink from a powerful potion...
As I marveled at the whole strange affair, I slumped down in a heap in my favorite chair...
Closing my eyes I pictured her smile, and that made the whole crazy evening worthwhile...
She loved the coin and thought I was great, off went my shoes and I was snoring by eight...



